rather than a city because I was also interested in studying agricultural conditions. Rumors, however, grew around my presence: I was a deserter from the American army, hiding from the military police, a rich American on a vacation or business man looking for investment opportunities. After a month I was able to move around the barrio without causing much excitement. I suspect I became a sort of necessary nuisance, as Malinowski phrased it, mitigated by a rather abundant distribution of free cigarettes!

This beginning period in the poblacion, with visits to the surrounding area, proved to be a valuable investment of time. First, news about the Americano quickly spread throughout the locality, so when I appeared for the first time in the barrios, I did not arrive as a total stranger. Second, it was during this period that I "tried out" several candidates as an interpreter. Since I needed an interpreter who spoke English, this meant I had to become acquainted with the young men living in the poblacion. Third, I was able to begin the study of the dialect with the English-speaking residents of the poblacion.

My interpreter, Mr. Dioscoro Ragay, was a stocky, energetic young man of thirty-three years, the father of three children. He was born in Zamboanguita poblacion but had lived most of his life in Siaton. He had spent nearly two years at Silliman University and had taught school in both Sandolot and Caticugan. During the war,

Coring (his nickname), had been a respected guerrilla in southern Negros and later imprisoned by the Japanese. When I arrived in Siaton, he was working as a clerk in the municipio (the building which contains the offices of the municipal officials), a job which paid him a pittance.

Coring's father was the municipal sanitary inspector. His wife's family lived in Caticugan which was a distinct advantage to me. Coring was patient, interested in the work (though never as interested as I probably unreasonably hoped he would become) and gave me valuable advice. He was respected and liked by the barriofolk for his keen wit and warm friendly nature.

Each day Coring and I went to Caticugan around seven in the morning, returning to the poblacion in the early afternoon when the barriofolk took their daily siesta.[24] Often we revisited the barrio in the late afternoon; otherwise we examined municipal or church records, interviewed informants in the poblacion, or visited the fishing sitios at Baybay or Malabuhan. During the evenings I revised and typed my notes or attended a funeral wake, talked with the people at the guhang booths in the poblacion, or visited Caticugan when some special event was held.

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[24] In the beginning the work schedule was seven days a week for several months until I realized such a routine was unfair to Coring's family and reduced it to six days a week.

in a general manner, the interpretations made by my assistant and to discuss intelligently problems of translation of Cebuano into English. I also could carry on more detailed conversations with the people.

I made wide use of the available records of Siaton municipality. Unfortunately, most of the pre-war municipal records were lost when the municipio was burned during the last war. However, the records of the Roman Catholic church (which went back to the middle of the 19th century) had been preserved during the war. Through the kindness of the parish priest, I was able to examine them. Only a cursory survey was possible of the Spanish records kept in the Recollect convento (residence of the priests) in Dumaguete City. Various provincial records were consulted or summaries obtained through the courtesy of officials. The resources of the National Library in Manila and the collection of books and manuscripts supervised by H. Otley Beyer were used as time permitted.

During the two years it took to write this study, I frequently wrote to my former colleague[1] in Siaton for information. He was able to check certain dubious points or gather additional information on minor aspects that I had overlooked or failed to collect sufficient data. The material was sent to me with the names of the informants, their residence, and often their unabridged comments. The people, for the most part, did not know that Mr. Ragay was gathering information for me.

[1] [i.e. Ragay -- Analyst]